

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

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August 2, 2018

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Completion for the Hotel Workplace Requirements and Restrictions petition

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

The Human Relations Commission supports the recommendation listed on agenda item #28 (18-0668) of the August 7, 2018 City Council meeting. The purpose and function of the Human Relations Commission is to "promote full acceptance of all citizens in the community in all aspects of community life, to recommend to city council measures, including legislation, which will serve to improve positive human relations and the elimination of discriminatory practices, and to enhance and improve mutual understanding and respect for all citizens of the community." It is in this context that the Human Relations Commission placed the topic of addressing abuse experienced by hotel workers on our agenda back in August of 2017. This is also why we are here today to ask the Council to adopt the Initiative Ordinance tonight with no further action needed.

Over the last few years, our commission has learned that there is an extremely distinct set of circumstances related to hotel work that concern the safety of hotel workers. We have learned that employees experience a myriad of unique working conditions that threaten their health, safety, mental health and dignity such as proximity to unsafe private spaces and concerning power differentials between workers, guests, and management. We also believe variables related to gender, class, and immigration status play a significant role in the hotel worker experience. Our perspective on this topic has been informed by the testimony of community leaders, hotel workers and data provided by hotel worker advocates.

Local hotel workers also report inhumane working conditions related to workload, shift lengths and an inability to refuse overtime without fear of retaliation. Worker testimony suggests that current policy in many local hotels is inadequate in addressing issues related to workload and safety.


Following careful consideration of our charter and purview, as well community testimony, we have determined that increased legal protections for hotel workers is crucial to ensuring a safe working environment within Long Beach hotels. Working within the framework of equity, our commission believes that all people tied to the hotel industry should benefit from its economic impact. At a bare minimum, employees in the hotel industry are deserving of basic human dignity. It is in this light that we urge the City Council to support the recommendations listed on Agenda item #28 (18-0668) of the August 7, 2018 City Council meeting.

To summarize in brief, the recommendation calls to approve one of the three alternative actions, we believe that should be the 1st as over 40,000 votes were verified for this petition. This is almost double the amount of people in support of this item as voted in our last election in the City of Long Beach.

Please - Adopt the Initiative Ordinance, without alteration, at the regular meeting at which the certification of the petition is presented, or within 10 days after it is presented.

The Human Relations Commission submits this recommendation again with a hope and vision of Long Beach where our city continues to embrace values of justice, equity, respect and dignity for all its residents.

Respectfully,



Amy Eriksen, Chair

Human Relations Commission